

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 FEA-02 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5875
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, VE

SUBJECT: SHELL NAMES NEW PRESIDENT FOR VENEZUELAN COMPANY

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. SHELL COMPANY OF VENEZUELA HAS NAMED DR. ALBERTO QUIROS TO POSITION OF COMPANY PRESIDENT EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 1, 1974. HE WILL REPLACE KENNETH WETHERELL, WHO HAS BEEN PROMOTED TO REGIONAL COORDINATOR FOR OIL AND GAS - WESTERN HEMISPHERE - OF THE ROYAL DUTCH SHELL GROUP. WETHERELL WILL ASSUME HIS NEW DUTIES IN LONDON IN FEBRUARY 1975.

2. DR. QUIROS IS A VENEZUELAN WHO HAS BEEN WITH SHELL SINCE 1953. HE IS 43 YEARS OLD. HE ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY OF ZULIA IN VENEZUELA, THE LONDON POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND CORNELL UNIVERSITY WHERE HE OBTAINED AN MA IN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS. IN 1970 THE CARACAS JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DESIGNATED HIM ONE OF THE FIVE OUTSTANDING YOUNG MEN OF THE YEAR. HE WAS VICE
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PRESIDENT OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE

VENEZUELAN THIRD OIL CONGRESS, AN ANNUAL EVENT HELD THIS YEAR IN CARACAS DURING PAST JUNE. WITHIN THE COMPANY, QUIROS WORKED IN THE FIELD OF LABOR RELATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL SALES OF OIL PRODUCTS. HE HAS NEGOTIATED SUPPLY CONTRACTS IN EUROPE, LATIN AMERICA AND JAPAN. END UNCLASSIFIED

BEGIN CLASSIFIED

3. COMMENT: SHELL IS SOMEWHAT APPREHENSIVE AS TO HOW THE ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE TAKEN LOCALLY. WETHERELL IS ONE OF THE HIGHEST REGARDED OIL EXECUTIVES IN COUNTRY, AND THE COMPANY ANTICIPATES SOME COMMENTS TO EFFECT THAT SHELL IS ABANDONING VENEZUELA. HOWEVER, CONTRARY OPINION OF PRIDE IN YOUNG VENEZUELAN CAPABLE OF RUNNING SECOND LARGEST FOREIGN OIL COMPANY MORE LIKELY TO PREVAIL.

4. MOVE MAY PROVE TO BE VERY TIMELY FOR SHELL IN VIEW FORTHCOMING NATIONALIZATION. WETHERELL IN HIS NEW LONDON POSITION WILL STILL BE FINAL AUTHORITY FOR VENEZUELAN OPERATION.

5. THERE IS ANOTHER OPINION REPORTING OFFICER HAS HEARD FROM GOV CONTACTS THAT THIS IS OBVIOUS ATTEMPT BY SHELL TO BEAT NATIONALIZATION WITH COMPANY-ORIENTED VENEZUELAN MANAGEMENT WHICH GOV MIGHT BE PERSUADED TO ACCEPT, RATHER THAN IMPOSITION OF UNKNOWN VENEZUELAN GROUP INTO SHELL OPERATION WHEN NATIONALIZATION IS A FACT. END CLASSIFIED.

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